

### REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is being filed concurrently with a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/511,362, filed February 23, 2000. Claims 29-34 have been added to present in this divisional application the non-elected claims of Group II in the parent application. More particularly, Claims 29-35 herein correspond to the non-elected Claims 54-55 of the parent case. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added.

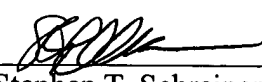
### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

A check in the amount of \$770.00 to cover the basic filing fee is enclosed. It is believed that no other fees are due in connection with the filing of this Divisional application. However, if it is determined otherwise, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1/16/04

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